

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In promoting its supposed goals of fair competition, diversity and local voice in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of the huge, dominant companies and players in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate, or even attempt to demonstrate, the negative effects that media deregulation and consolidation have had on the diversity of our media. While there may indeed seem to be more sources of media than ever before that is clearly not the case and the spectrum of views presented has already been severely limited. The internet for the most part is dependent on regular news sources and although we already have to go increasingly to foreign news sources such as the BBC in order to get the real story are we really willing to allow America to become a backwater of propaganda outlets.

The right to conduct an informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation and has already been severely compromised by recent changes. Our forefathers believed that democracy was renewed in the marketplace of diverse ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge and consolidate further, our ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

I urge the FCC to preserve the public interest by keeping the media ownership rules in question intact. In fact I would ask the FCC to re-instate the rules that require media outlets to either pay for the use of the public airways or to give the public access to those airways free of charge during political campaigns and for other community services.

I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February of 2003. However, I wonder why they are not holding similar hearings in all parts of the country to solicit the widest possible participation from the public. The rarified, lawyerly atmosphere of an FCC rulemaking is not an appropriate decision-making venue when questions as profound as the freedom of our media are at stake. I encourage the Commissioners to come out and meet some of the people who do not have a financial interest in this issue, but a social interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the

process.

In addition, the head of the FCC, Mr. Michael Powell, has shown very little interest in serving the public whom he is supposed to represent. If he continues to fail in this undertaking then he should be replaced by someone who will take this important public trust seriously.  
Thank you,

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Mundy